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JC772 U.S. PTO

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box New Appl.
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are:

- (1) Specification (40 pages)
- (2) Twenty-eight (28) Claims-- 2 independent, 26 dependent
- (3) Drawings (11 sheets)
- (4) Declaration and Power of Attorney
- (5) Verified Statements Claiming Small Entity Status
- (6) Express Mail Certificate
- (7) Return Receipt Post Card

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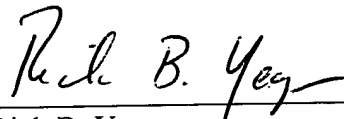
A check in the amount of \$417.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee. The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Basic fee- small entity	\$ 345.00
Claims in excess of 20 (28-20)*\$9.00	\$ 72.00
Total	\$ 417.00

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.10 and 1.53, applicant respectfully requests that this application be assigned a serial number and a filing date of January 28, 2000, the date upon which the application was mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office by Express Mail.

Date: January 28, 2000

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE under 37 CFR 1.10 of MAILING by "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Express Mail label No.: EJ131497509US

Date of Deposit: January 28, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date shown above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20321.

Cynthia Yeager

(signature of person mailing correspondence)

Cynthia Yeager

09/492961

**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37CFR1.9(f) & 1.27(b))-
INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Applicant or Patentee: Courtney A. Oldham

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or issued: January 28, 2000

Title: **Automated Method and System for Conducting a Cattle Auction**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9 (c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(c).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

No such person, concern, or organization exists.

Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention avcrring to their status as small entities.(37CFR1 517)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Courtney A. Oldham


Signature of inventor

1/27/00
Date